

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 17-27 were pending in the application. Claims 17-21 were withdrawn subject to a Response to an Election/Restriction filed on June 5, 2006. Claims 22-27 are rejected finally, claim 22 is amended and no new claims are being submitted. No new matter is presented.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The examiner asserts claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.P.N. 6,728,610 to Marshall.

Applicants' amended independent claim 22 recites the following:

22. A gas turbine engine part, comprising:

a paper tag comprising at least one part identifier information affixed to a gas turbine engine part having undergone a maintenance operation, wherein said tag corresponds to an electronic record and is a substitute for a plurality of paperwork pertaining to said maintenance operation.

Claim 22 recites the tag is a “paper tag”. Marshall teaches using a bar code, a microchip or a programmable device capable of storing, receiving, and/or sending data, such as a “smart tag”, associated with the engine part. Marshall does not teach using a paper tag containing information associated with the engine part. The paper tag recited in Applicants' claim 22 is structurally different than the “smart tag” embodiments taught by Marshall. For at least this reason, Marshall does not teach all of the elements recited in Applicants' amended independent claim 22.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and find that claims 22-27 are allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The examiner asserts claims 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.P.N. 4,280,185 to Martin.

Applicants' claim 27 is dependent upon amended independent claim 22.

Claim 22 recites the tag is a “paper tag”. Martin teaches using a life tracking system such as an optical encoder using fiber-optic waveguides (col. 4, l. 43-col. 6, l. 62) and an electronic module identifier which encodes the data plate identification information by the changing the

conductivity of an electrical current path through the individual columns of the data plate matrix (col. 6, l. 63-col. 8, l. 9). Martin does not teach using a paper tag containing information associated with the engine part. The paper tag recited in Applicants' claim 22 is structurally different than the "tag" embodiments taught by Martin. For at least this reason, Martin does not teach all of the elements recited in Applicants' amended independent claim 22.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and find that claims 22 and 27 are allowable.

Double Patenting Rejections

The examiner asserts claims 22-27 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 48-73 of copending Application No. 10/064,105.

Applicants intend to resolve this double patenting rejection once this rejection is the only rejection remaining between both the present application and copending Application No. 10/064,105.

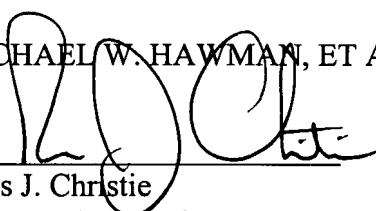
Conclusion

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

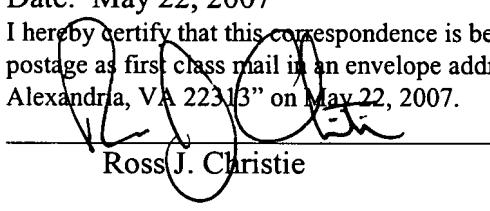
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 22, 2007.


Ross J. Christie